

To: Mr. Erich Schmidtke
101 East Wilson Street
Madison, WI 53703
erich.schmidtke@wi.gov

608-264-6102

From: Larry A. Bentle, PhD
N349 Julius Dr.
Appleton, WI 54914
larry.a.bentle@gmail.com

Ph/Fax: 920-840-6715
Cell: 706-504-5200

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Dear Incorporation Review Board Members:

Please consider the following submission in your review of Greenville's application for village status:

Support for Village Incorporation of Greenville's Greenbelt Together With Greenville's Residential Areas

Some initial thoughts/questions: If Greenville's Greenbelt is not approved to be included in our application to become a Village, then it seems a main reason for applying for village status is null and void. That is, one main reason to incorporate was/is to protect the NW corner of our town from annexation by the Town of Hortonville; however, that portion of our town is in our Greenbelt. Will the Greenbelt portion that is adjacent to Hortonville then be available again for annexation from the Town of Hortonville if the Greenbelt is excluded from village status? Furthermore in this situation, will the new Village of Greenville then try to annex a portion of its own Greenbelt?

Points to Consider in Support of Incorporating our Greenbelt:

Stormwater. In April 2019 I wrote a letter of recommendation to our Stormwater Superintendent Chris Pagel in support of a grant application to improve our MS4 to meet upcoming, State mandated, sediment and phosphorous reductions that will soon take effect. In essence, our Greenbelt and its Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) provides our Greenville residential and industrial community with ample green & agricultural space needed for watershed areas to meet the stringent new regulations. Phosphate requirements (soluble and particulate) that cannot be met in the residential and industrial areas can in effect be traded as credits with those of the Greenbelt where sediment and phosphate amounts are low. Incorporation of the Greenbelt as a part of the village would thus benefit the entire Greenville community as a whole; an asset that few other high population and fast growing communities currently have.

Urban planning. It has been stated that Greenville is the second fastest growing residential area in Wisconsin. Several decades of careful planning by the Town of Greenville has resulted in preventing uncontrolled urban sprawl and helped our community grow in a planned manner. This forethought: 1) Has resulted in our relatively sparsely populated Greenbelt, 2) Is preserving our Ag heritage, 3) Provides opportunities to preserve active farmland, 4) Provides our community large tracts of open land and wetlands. In total, our town's residential, commercial and Agricultural land (comprising much of the Greenbelt) defines our community as "who we are." To break our Town up by leaving the Greenbelt out of the Greenville Village incorporation process would permanently fragment our community that we have grown to know and love. Because of these decades old policies, the Town of Greenville has become a premier area for Fox City residents to move into, live and raise a family. We must keep it that way by carefully planning our precious and limited remaining open land resources. We respectfully ask to include our Greenbelt in the incorporation process.

Rat River, Arrowhead Creek and Dagget's Creek Watershed. Locals sometimes refer to the central part of this feature that lies within Greenville's Greenbelt as the "Dale Swamp". The Greenbelt with its AEA surrounds the Dale Wetland Swamp and provides a vast stormwater purifying area prior to surface water flowing into surrounding lakes (e.g. Poygan, Butte des Morts, Winnebago, etc.) and the Fox River. In reality, our Ag farmland and associated open grass/woodlands, surrounding the swamp, provide an initial purifying buffer to the swamp itself to better handle the increased runoff from Greenville's rapidly growing residential areas and other surrounding communities. The importance of this well thought out and long established Greenville Greenbelt is an integral and vital part of our unique Greenville community. It must not be excluded should Greenville be granted Village status.

Established residential areas in the Greenbelt. Some residential developments comprising of about 100 acres or less are already established in the Greenbelt. So in essence, there is a limited residential presence within our Greenbelt. Farmland, grass and woodlands of the Greenbelt surround these communities.

Yellowstone Trail & Ag Tourism. In 1915 the Yellowstone Trail (YT) was established as the first transcontinental highway traveling through the upper tier of states in the US. It connected Plymouth, MA to Seattle, WA prior to the existence of federally funded/operated roads. One section of the original 1915 YT passed through our Greenville Greenbelt and AEA via 2 miles of Julius Drive from County Hwy BB until it met Hwy 96 then turned West for several miles to our Town boarder and beyond. In later years the YT had alternative routes in the area taking it through Appleton and surrounding cities. This background is mentioned as the YT has the potential within our proposed village to become an attractive nucleus for Ag Tourism with its local farms and open areas transformed into new Ag related businesses. In addition to current agriculture practices please reference Steve Nagy's material (section 6) that Steve handed out at our 23 July 2019 meeting in Madison in support of Greenville's application for village status. It lists potential Ag Tourism businesses that could be developed within

our Greenbelt to further augment the uniqueness of Greenville for our residents and visitors.

Steve Nagy's wedding and special event venue business, "Homestead Meadows," is a prime example of how a once small farm that many literally thought/said to be totally useless can be turned into an attractive and very profitable business. Our close proximity to the Fox Cities Metropolitan area should be considered a valuable and attractive asset for our Greenbelt to develop/leverage a unique variety Ag Tourism related businesses that would not be feasible in many other areas of the state.

Ag related businesses. There are many agricultural areas within Wisconsin that do not have Ag businesses in close proximity to support the farming community. In Greenville, we are extremely fortunate to have numerous Agribusinesses either within Greenville Township proper or within a few miles of our borders that directly serve our dairy and cash crop Ag community. For example, these include:

- Large Ag equipment dealers: 1) Riesterer & Schnell, 2) Swiderski Implements, and 3) Service Motor Co., Inc.
- Crop marketing, fertilizer, seeds, Ag fuel sales, etc.: 1) Greenville United Cooperative, 2) Outagamie County Cooperative, 3) CHS Larsen Cooperative.
- Ag seeds & lubricants: 1) Schroeder, Lubricants & Seeds, 2) Several small independent seed dealerships.
- Farm supplies: Mills Fleet Farm plus the local Coop retail stores.
- Organic Fertilizer. Menasha West Sewage Treatment Plant. Generating dried solids for landowners to apply to Greenbelt acreage, providing a vital service for the treatment plant to continue to operate.

Heritage farms. Within the Greenbelt there are 3 farms along the 2 mile Julius Dr. portion of the Yellowstone Trail that have been in the same families for 130-150 years. There are several other farms in the area with long historic and economic ties to our community. Many of these farms or sections of them lie within the Greenville Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA). It is this rich farm heritage along with our open Greenbelt land that imparts to our Greenville community its unique character given its close proximity to the crowded Fox Cities Metropolitan Area. What can we do to save this setting for future generations? Other residents and I believe it begins with keeping our community whole by incorporating our entire township as a single entity.



Our Bentle Homestead on Julius Drive. It was purchased in 1890 by my grandfather. He built the barn in 1917. The shed in the right foreground was already present in 1890 when he purchased the farm. Early period Greenville plot maps specifically identify the shed as a “cigar factory.” The shed in the left background is new this year, replacing two sheds one built by my grandfather and the other by my father.





Our farmland is part of the Greenville AEA. This field lies north of our barn.



Across Julius Dr. from our farm driveway is the largest field in our township, about 300 acres. It belongs to and is operated by Steinacker Farms, a family owned agribusiness. The family farms approximately 5,000 acres in Greenville and the surrounding area. The above land is also part of our AEA.

American Farmland Trust Organization (AFT). The AFT within the last few months has reinstated its farmland trust program. The organization has taken a special interest in our Greenbelt and AEA by actively helping us learn about and model preservation programs for our agricultural and open lands by offering land trusts. The AFT's keen interest in Greenville stems from the fact that no other agencies in NE Wisconsin will hold farmland trusts. The Greenville Land Stewardship/AEA Committee has been searching for several years to find an independent organization to specifically hold Ag-land trusts. We repeatedly approached one prominent area organization with proposals; however, they replied that they were interested only in protecting wetlands and related areas, not agricultural land. With the AFT we now have the possibility to diligently draft farmland preservation and related programs. Our AEA is small in comparison to other AEAs in Wisconsin, but few AEAs have the residential development pressure as ours in Greenville. This interest by AFT signals the uniqueness of our community, its established Greenbelt and why our Greenbelt should be incorporated with the rest of Greenville to keep us intact as a Village Community.

A Parting Thought. If we do not plan today, there will be little to no land available for tomorrow's dreams. New York City's Central Park that so many New Yorkers enjoy did not happen without a very early bold dream, distinct planning and stringent adherence to plan/zoning. The same holds true for other large cities with unique large green spaces. We need to preserve our Greenbelt and incorporate it into our village to best keep our Greenville community whole.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Larry A. Bentle".

Larry A. Bentle